

deductions for public schools; extends the enhanced deduction to libraries, local governments, community centers, and other organizations, such as boys and girls clubs, that promote the education of children; expresses the sense of Congress that donations to underprivileged schools should be a priority; allows nonmanufacturers the same enhanced deduction as manufacturers, so long as the original use of the computer originated with the taxpayer seeking the deduction. Provides that charitable contributions must be made within 3 years from the date the corporation purchased the computer; and clarifies that tangible personal property includes software.

Mr. Speaker, computers can be the most important new learning tool in our classrooms since the chalkboard. Studies show that children with access to computers learn faster and better than those who don't. Their scores on standardized tests go up 10 to 15 percent. They master basic skills in significantly less time. And they stay in school more often. But computers will never realize their full potential in schools unless we figure out better ways to get them in the hands of our children.

Silicon Valley has been blessed with several private-public initiatives to improve the technology available in our schools. Efforts like Challenge 2000, Net Day 96, the 21st Century Education Initiative, and Smart Valley's SmartSchools project continue to improve educational opportunities for students in our community.

To better educate children, our policies should encourage and reward businesses to produce winning outcomes. The Computer Donation Incentive Act would accomplish these goals by encouraging corporations to donate computers to schools, libraries, local governments, and other organizations dedicated to children's learning.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE BERLIN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Berlin Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice-monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in fire-fighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee fire training school in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well-trained and

qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

WILLIE B. BROWN, SR., HONORED

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 1996

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, May 25, 1996, friends and relatives of Willie B. Brown will gather to honor his ongoing commitment to the South Dade community. I am sure that my colleagues will agree with me that Mr. Brown is truly a man of distinction.

Willie B. Brown graduated as the salutatorian of Mays Senior High School, offering a glimpse of the excellence he would continue to achieve. As an adult, Mr. Brown wasted no time getting involved in his community. He organized the Homestead Southwest Home Owners Association and formulated a youth advisory committee in the area. He has served on the Florida City Foundation community advisory board and worked to improve the Dade County criminal justice system. He has founded the Homestead Martin Luther King parade as well as the area's African heritage parade.

Professionally, he has worked on behalf of migrant workers as the community service director of the Management Health Clinic of South Florida and has provided job training and housing information in his role as area director administrator of the Economic Opportunity Program Incorporated.

Ever since I have known Mr. Brown, he has always been resilient and visionary in all the activities he has forged for our community's well-being. He is imbued with a sense of commitment to any cause he takes up or any crusade he embarks on. His belief in reaching out to his fellow human beings is legendary.

The numerous awards with which he has been honored represent an unequivocal testimony of the utmost respect he enjoys from our community. His countless efforts on behalf of others bespeak of his enduring legacy to those who would choose to dedicate their God-given talents to ensure a better future.

I am proud to have active in my congressional district a man of the talent of Willie B. Brown. He serves as a living example of taking pride in one's community.

WATER AND ENERGY RESEARCH INSTITUTE VITAL TO MAINTAINING GUAM'S WATER QUALITY

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 1996

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the House has passed H.R. 1743, which reauthorizes the Water Resources Research Act and provides funding for the water research institutes program.

H.R. 1743 authorizes funds for the 54 water resources research institutes located at land-grant universities in the states and territories. The institutes are an effective way for the Federal Government to assist local communities in solving local and regional water problems. No other source of funding provides this kind of assistance to water research efforts which directly address water quality and supply problems.

These institutes conduct research on water resources which are valuable to the nation and vital to areas struggling with a limited water supply. Because of Guam's small land mass and growing water demand, our water lens is being stretched to maximum capacity. Potential contamination of this water lens mostly due to contaminated soil on military and former military lands, has heightened concern over our already limited water supply.

In addition, this program's modest Federal investment leverages significant state and private sector funding. In fiscal year 1995, Federal funds for the institutes helped secure \$65 million in additional funding from a variety of sources.

The research is provided by the Water and Energy Research Institute of the Western Pacific (WERI) is applied to real and ongoing water management problems on Guam. Our understanding and use of modern water technology will be vital in our effort to increase Guam's water capacity. These institutes are integral to the proper protection and development of our water resources.

I am pleased that the members of this body have recognized the importance of these institutes and afforded them the opportunity to continue their outstanding work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 1996

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, on May 21, 1996, I was unavoidably detained and missed Rollcall vote No. 180. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Rollcall No. 180.

HONORING THE BELFAST VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 1996

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